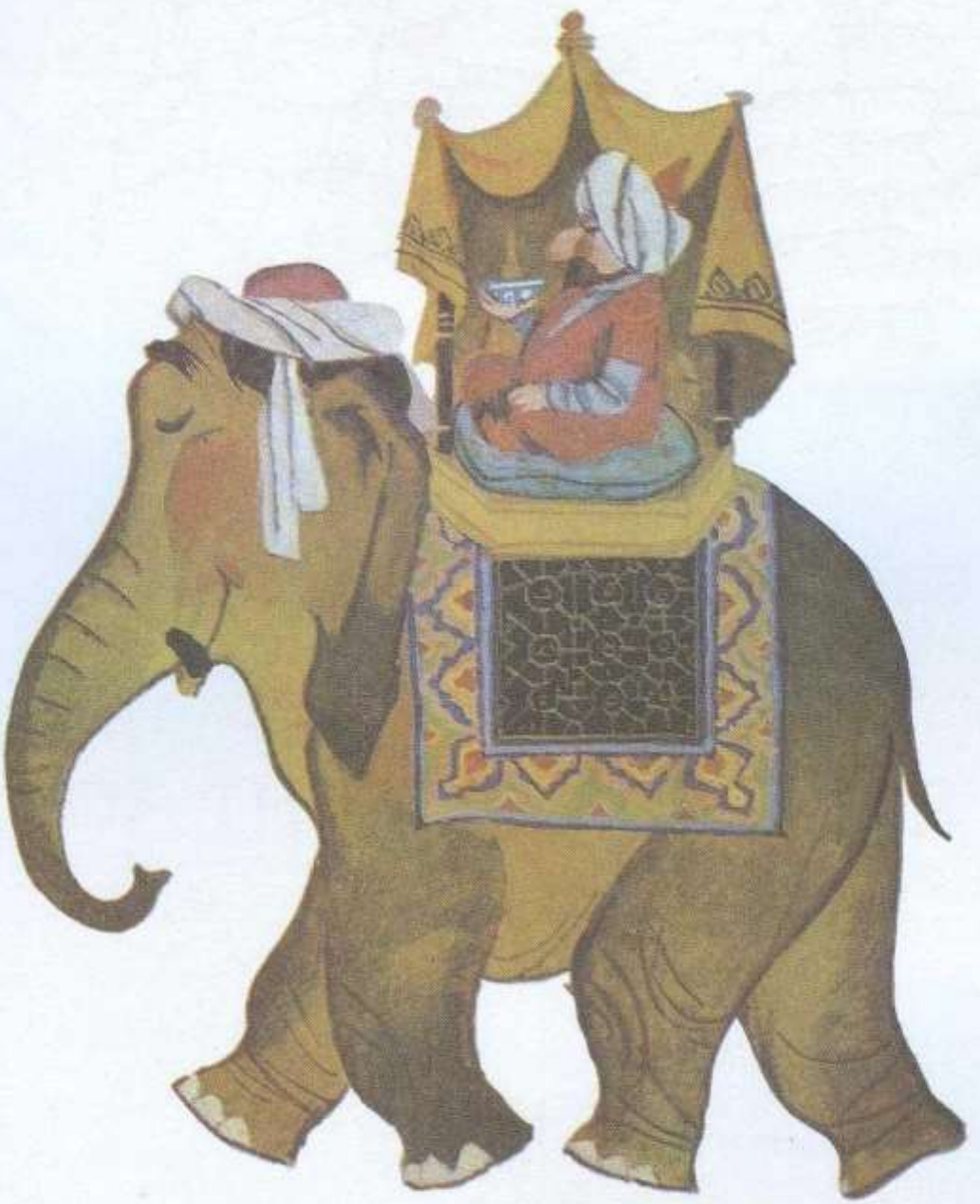
THE LEGEND OF THE STONECUTTER



"The Legend of the Stonecutter" is a slide film released by Diafilm Studios. The screenplay by R. KUSHNEROVICH has been based on a Tajik fairy tale. The illustrations are by A. VINOKUROV and L. SHVARTSMAN.

ISBN 978-955-1979-80-3

Published by : **Progressive Publishing House**
91, Dr. N. M. Perera Mawatha, Colombo 08

Printed by : **Kanol Print**

2009

THE LEGEND OF THE STONECUTTER

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No. 91, Dr. N. M. Perera Mawatha,
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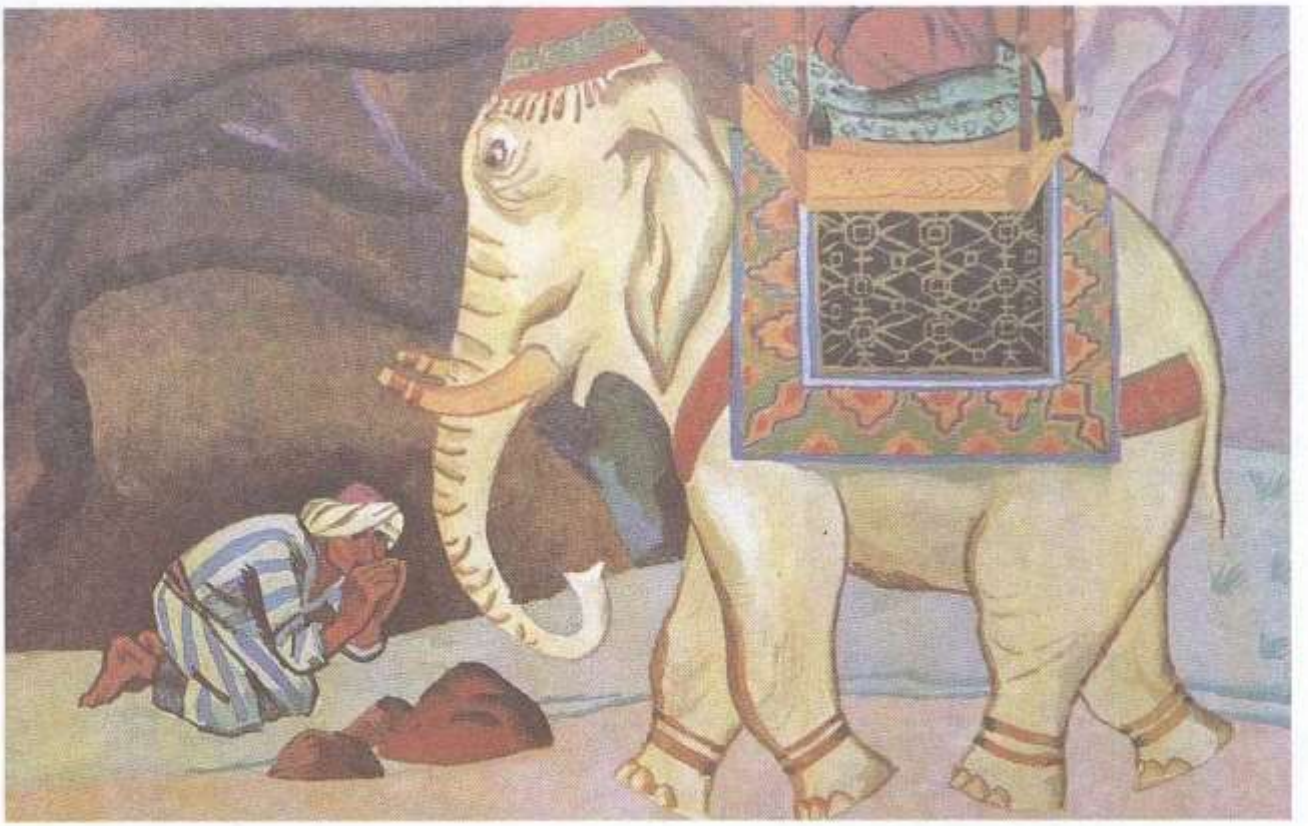
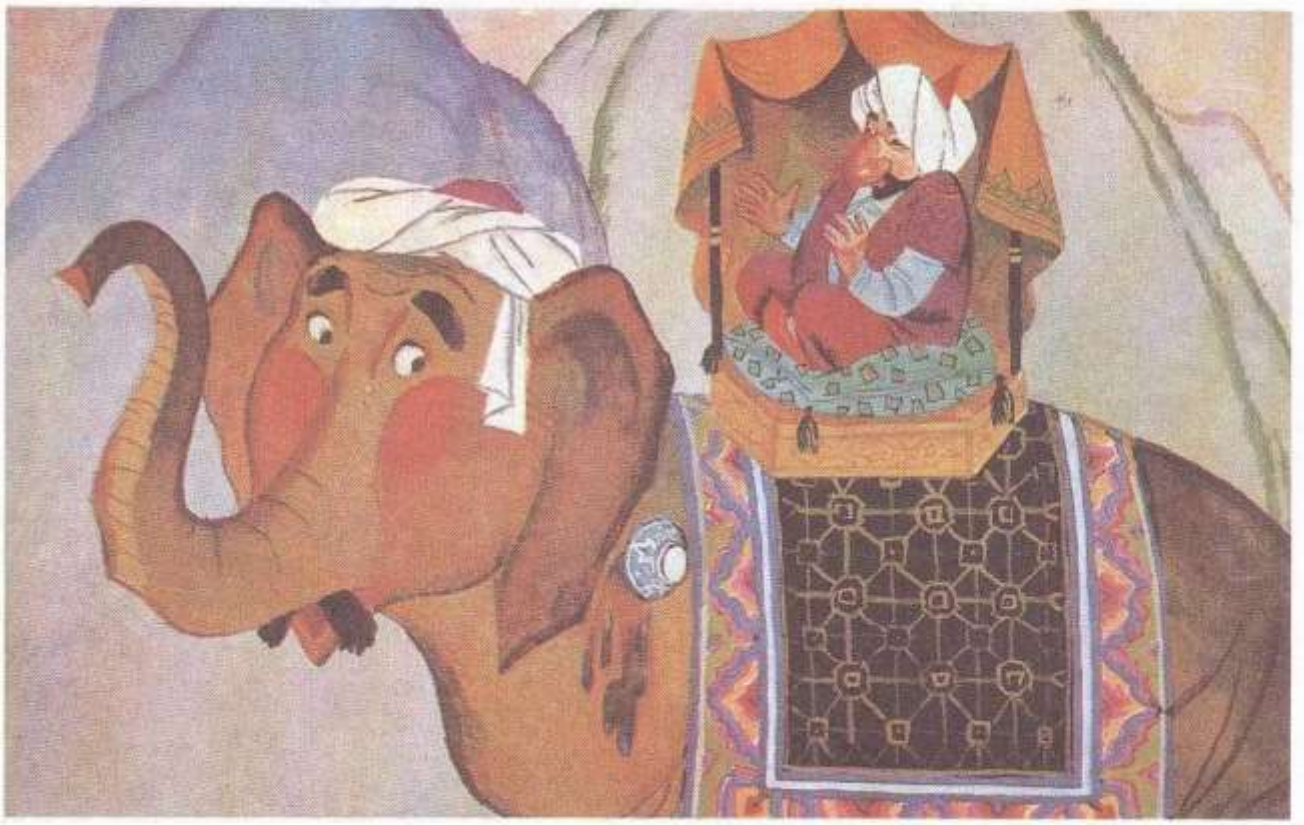
The Stonecutter was cutting stone in his quarry when suddenly he heard the shouts of runners: "Down on your knees! Down on your knees!"



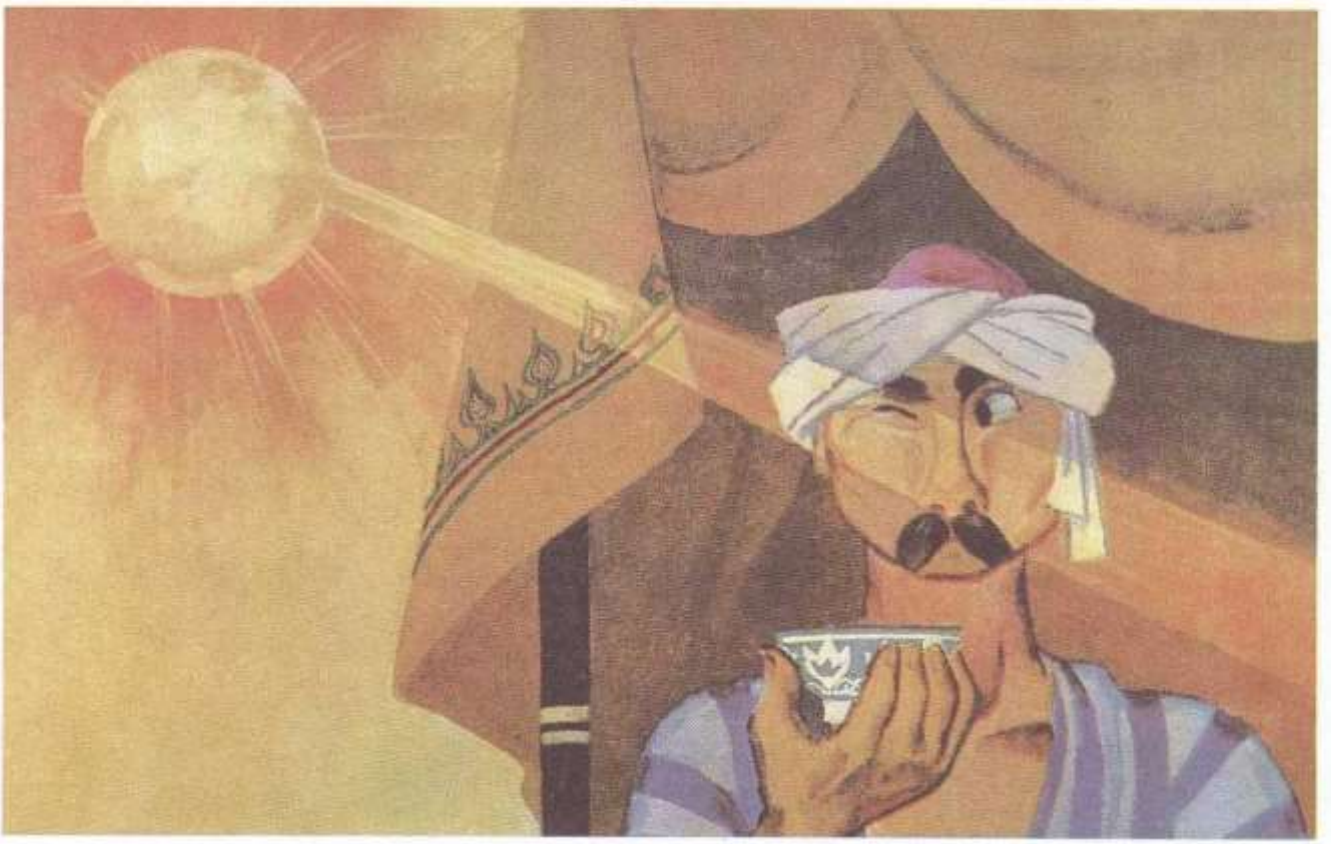
A white elephant appeared, and on its back rode a mighty king. The Stonecutter fell on his knees and thought: "The king can't even see me. Here am I, bowing to an Elephant...."

"Poor me, even an Elephant has a better life! I wish I were an Elephant!" And instantly the Stonecutter became an Elephant, stalking very proudly.

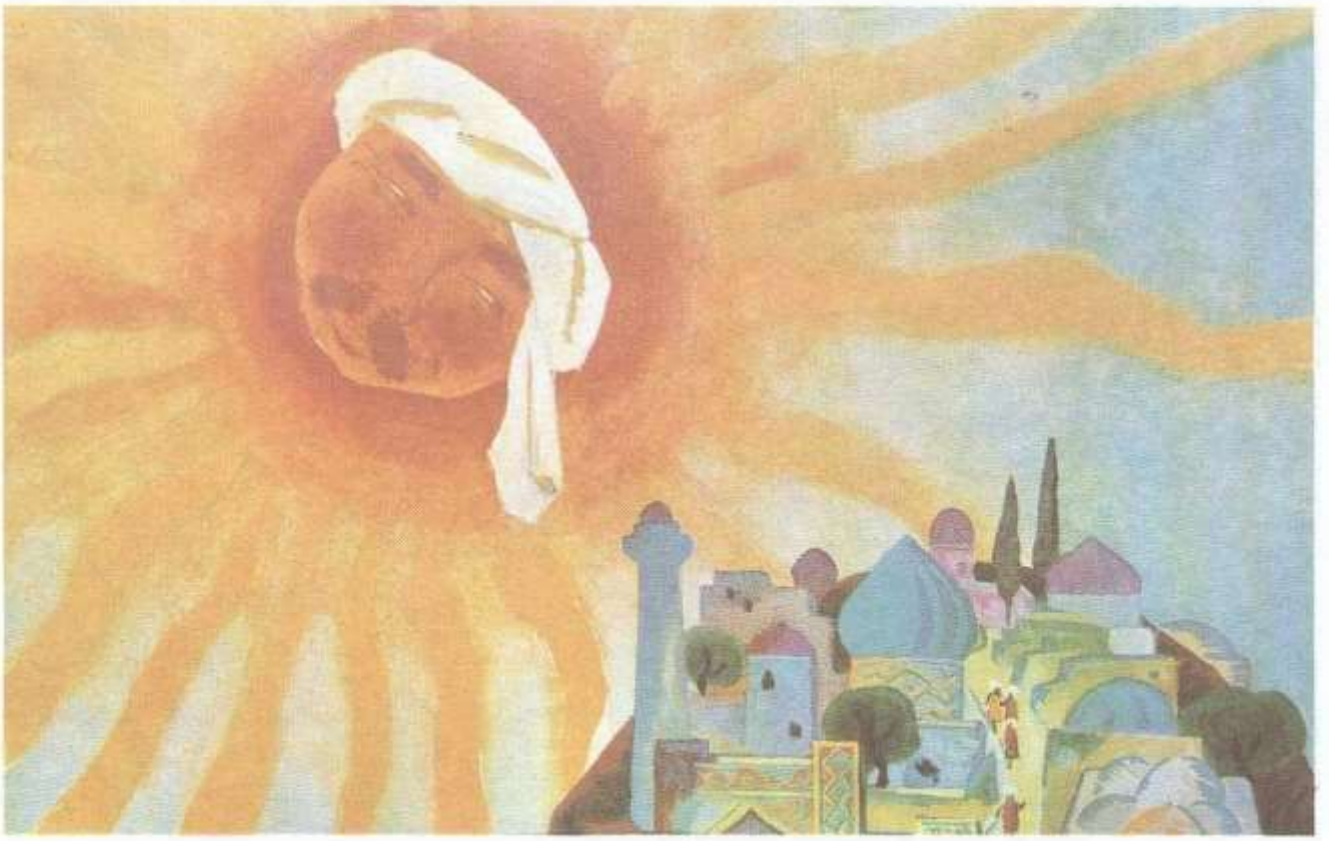


And suddenly the king spilled his hot tea on the back of the Stonecutter-Elephant "I wish I were the king instead," he thought

The same moment he became the king, riding the white elephant and enjoying his power and his tea.



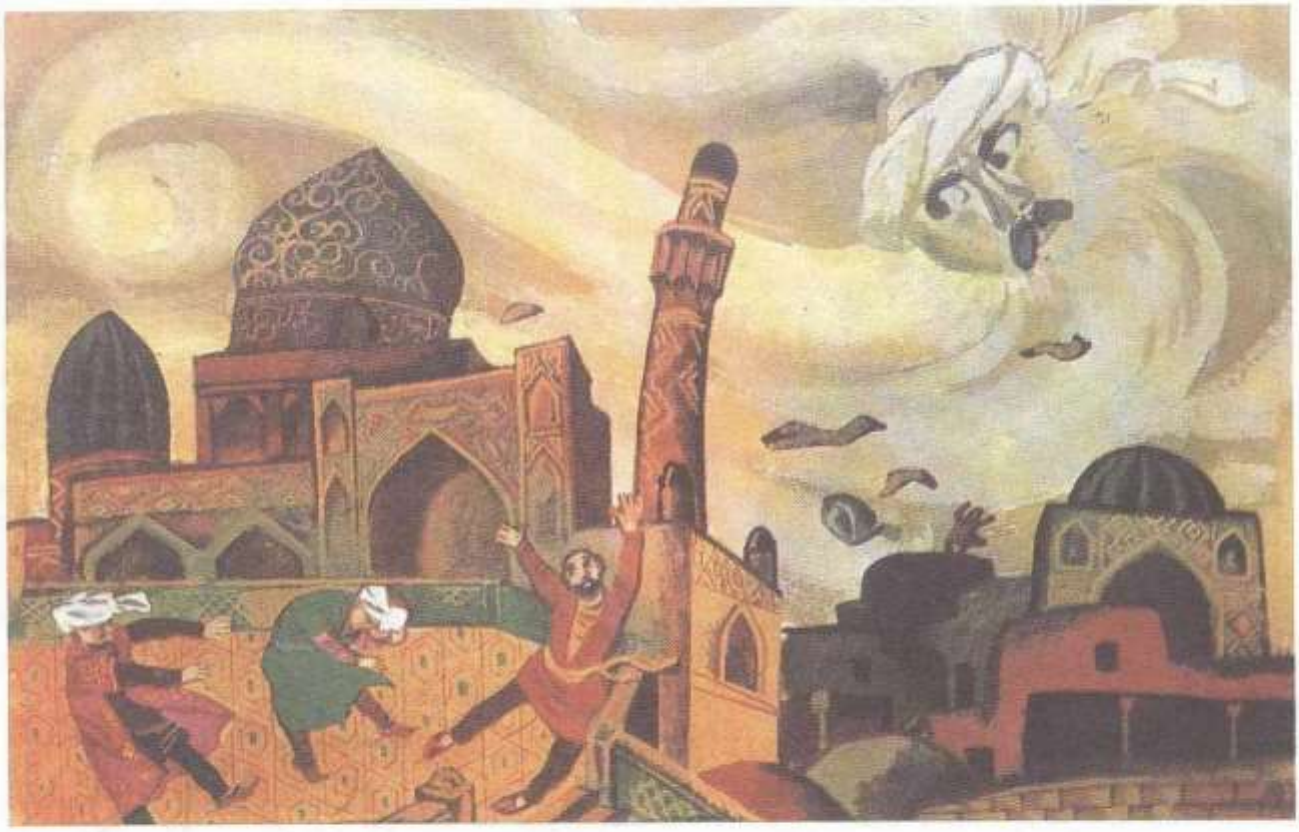
The Sun was a nuisance, shining straight into the kingly eyes, and the stonecutter-King thought: "The Sun is stronger than I am. I wish I were the Sun."



And a new Sun rose over the world.
And its rays beat down upon the Earth.
The Earth was very hot, and...

....steam rose from it and grew into a Cloud, and the Cloud overshadowed the Sun. "I wish I were that Cloud!" The Sun said angrily.

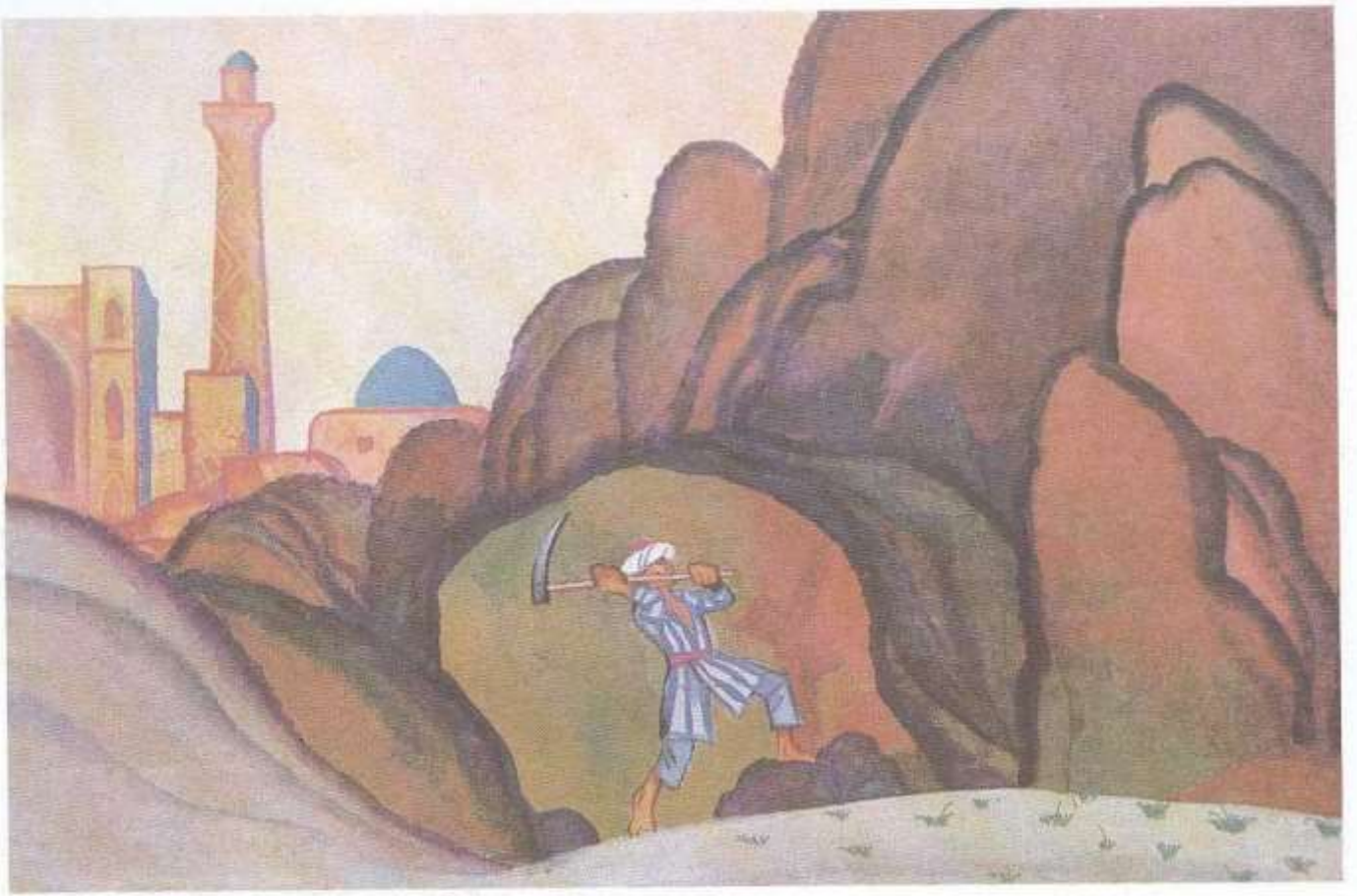
The Stonecutter-Cloud spread across the sky. Suddenly the wind rushed at it and tore at it, and the Cloud said: "I wish I were the Wind!"



"I wish..." howled the Wind, ripping off roofs and people's hats, racing faster and faster.

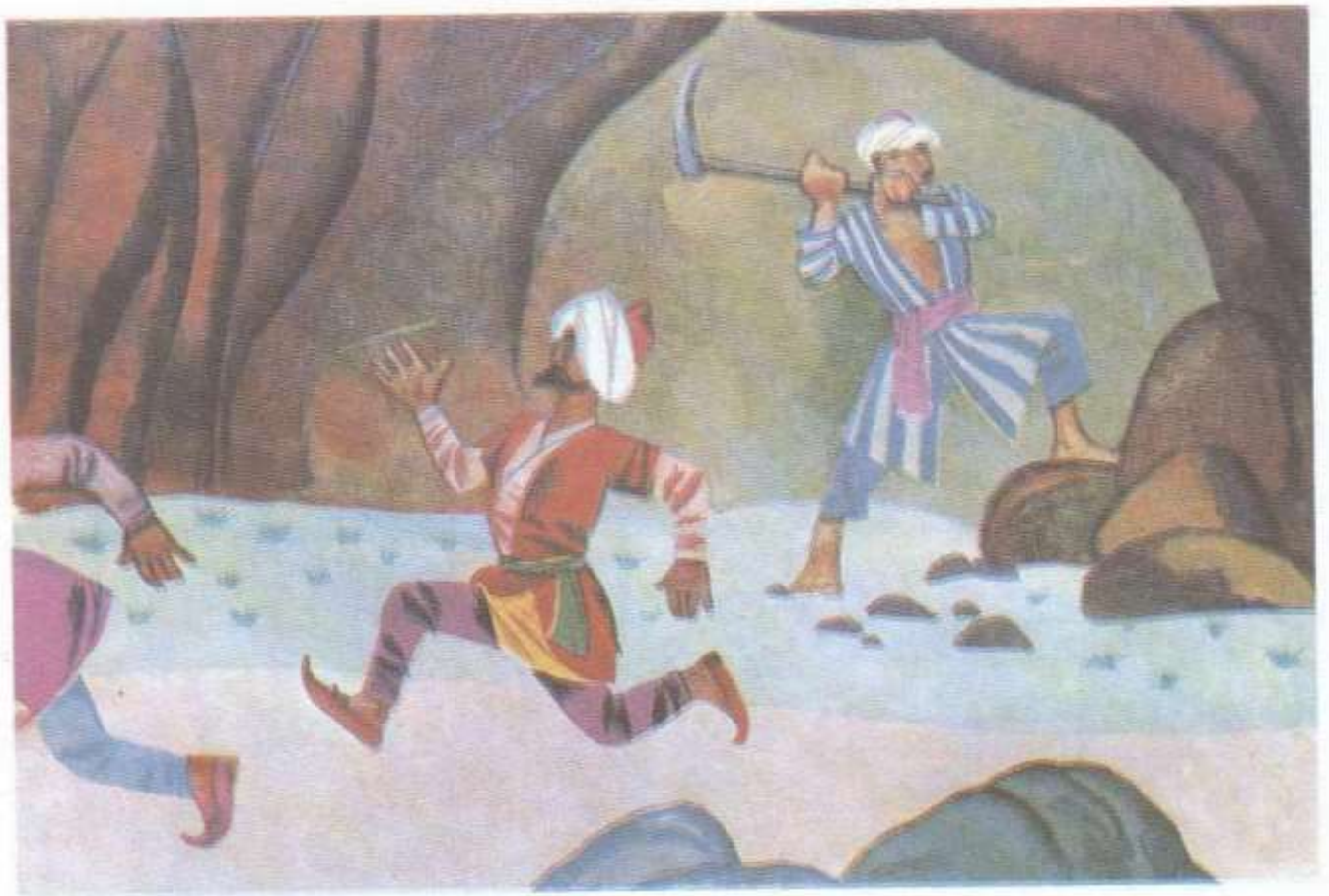
Suddenly it bumped into a Rock and was dashed to pieces. "I wish..." howled the Wind, but it was no longer the Wind...

...but the Rock. Its head was high up in the clouds, and the people bustling down below were too small to notice.



The Rock did not see the Stonecutter with a heavy pickaxe in his big hands. The man swung the pickaxe and struck at the Rock.

"Man is the strongest of all," moaned the Rock. I wish I were a Man!" And once again he became the Stonecutter working in his quarry.



Runners came again, shouting: "Down on your knees!" And the Stonecutter thought: "Elephant, King, Cloud, Wind, Rock: no, I shan't go down on my knees!"

And he didn't. And no one could force him to his knees. It's man's own weakness and not anybody else's strength that can make him.

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ISBN 978-955-1979-80-3
Rs. 130/=